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ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS

Alaska Department of Labor Bill Sheffield, Governor, State of Alaska

1 Job opportunities in Alaska's Health Care Industry Part II

ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS

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The following notes pertain to Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment Tables:

Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark Date March 1983.

P/ Denotes preliminary estimates.

R/ Denotes revised estimates.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN ALASKA'S HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY PART II

By Neal Fried and Greg Huff

Health care is presently one of the most dynamic industries in the nation. It has caused so much excitement that Wall Street speculators refer to it as the "health care boom". This excitement has come as a result of new technology, new ways of delivering health care, heightened health consciousness among the population, an emphasis on preventative medicine, changing demographics, and the creation of new health care occupations. Alaska is playing a part in these changes, which are not only taking place in the State's urban areas but are being felt in many of the rural areas of the State.

This article is Part II of a two-part series on employment opportunities in Alaska's health care industry. Part I (December 1983 issue of *Alaska Economic Trends)* focused on the opportunities in hospitals, acute care, and long term health care facilities (nursing, mental health, and the handicapped). Part II will emphasize health occupations found in noninstitutional health care facilities, such as clinics, private practices, and a variety of other out patient health centers. These would include private (profit and nonprofit) and government sponsored medical centers. In some cases the occupations discussed can be found in both institutional and noninstitutional health care settings and have already been covered in Part I.

In 1983 there were approximately 4,000 jobs in this sector of the health care industry. This is more than double the number present a decade earlier. Employment in this industry has grown more rapidly than overall employment in the both the U.S. and the Alaskan economy. There were approximately 573 health care establishments in Alaska in 1983 providing outpatient health care. They varied from a physician's private practice to large clinics, birthing centers, or drop in emergency centers. Some health establishments, such as birthing centers and drop in emergency centers, were nonexistent five years ago in Anchorage. Outpatient surgery is also growing in Alaska. It is estimated that 40% of all surgery may eventually be performed outside of the hospital.

Some of the occupations are also relatively new, such as the nurse practitioner. In 1980 there were 16 nurse practitioners in Alaska and today there are 73. The growth rate of nurse practitioners is no exception. The number of physician's assistants have more than doubled during the past three years and the number of physicians has grown by more than 100. The demand for people with health care skills definitely exists. The supply of people with these skills varies and this is, ultimately, what determines whether job opportunities for new entrants in the field will exist.

Major Job Opportunities

As in any field, job opportunities in health care are determined by the supply of and demand for people with particular skills. Supply and demand for employment in Alaska's health care industry is influenced by fluctuations in economic activity, population changes, labor force characteristics, health care funding, replacement needs, locally available training and working conditions.

Demand for health care jobs in Alaska is strong at present and it will continue to be strong in the future. Population is growing, the number of older people is increasing, insurance coverage is more widespread, and health care consciousness has risen. In addition, increased government and native corporation health care funding has increased the demand for health care by residents in the rural portions of the state. Growth of this industry in Alaska is part of a nationwide trend. According to a recent U.S. Department of Labor publication ". . .health care will continue to be an expanding field of work into the 1990's. Reflecting growth in expenditures for health services, occupations in the field will be among the fastest growing." Even if little growth were to occur, replacement needs create opportunities. The industry lends itself to high turnover in some occupations because of the type of work performed and the odd hours many of these people are required to work. This is compounded in Fairbanks and Anchorage by the military rotation system as many of the employees in this industry are spouses of servicemen.

The supply side in Alaska is determined by locally available training programs and in-migration of people with skills needed in this indsutry. Local training is available in some fields but for many occupations in this industry the necessary education must be acquired outside Alaska. During recent years the number of health personnel has grown rapidly, but geographic distribution remains a problem. Health workers are concentrated in the heavily populated and prosperous areas. Although health care is improving in rural areas because of government and private programs, many areas do not have the population base or services to support many of the desired medical services.

Given expansion of the industry and turnover, good job opportunities exist in many of the health fields in Alaska. There are shortages of skilled personnel for some health occupations in the industry while other occupations are in a balanced or slight over supply situation. Alaska's experience mirrors the nation's in many ways. When there is a national shortage in a particular field then the shortage is greater in Alaska, and when there is an oversupply nationally there will likely be an over supply in Alaska. The job opportunities for all occupations represented in this industry are different. These differences will be discussed in the remainder of the article.

Dental Occupations

Dentist: Job opportunities for dentists has been very good in the state, particularly in the urban areas. However, in the larger urban areas, such as Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau the demand/supply situation has improved causing increased competition. In the smaller yet growing communities, there is stronger demand than supply, but in many cases the population base is too small to warrant a full time position, particularly for specialized practices such as orthodontics or oral surgery. The rural portions of the state are experiencing a similar phenomenon where there may exist a strong demand for dental services but the population base and support industries do not exist to support a dentist. It is estimated by the Alaska Dental Association that a population of 2,000 is needed to support a full time dentist. The dental needs in the rural areas are being met through various programs by the U.S. Public Health Service.

Nationally, dental school enrollment has grown in recent years. and the number of new dentists is expected to shift from a balance situation to a slight oversupply in the late 1980's and early 1990's. Because of the recent increase in competition and the increasing cost of opening a practice, new dentists are forming group practices or may work for a dentist until they can gain a grubstake to start their own practice. Also a new developing trend is for dentists to become more generalized instead of specialized, so the dentist can perform more duties in light of increased competition.

Dental Hygienist: Generally, hygienists clean and polish teeth and instruct patients in proper oral hygiene. The outlook is good though competitive because of the rise in the number of graduates from schools of dental hygiene. Opportunities are best when looking for part time work. Full time work usually consists of working part time for several dentists.

Hygienists graduating from schools in Alaska have an advantage over hygienists new to the state because of the contacts the schools maintain to assist graduates in placement. The Anchorage Community College reports a very high placement rate. The hygienist relieves dentists of many routine tasks, thus "streamlining" the dentists operations. With mounting competition among dentists the need to streamline may diminish as the dentist perform the task themselves. Offsetting this is the trend of forming group practices which should result in additional jobs for hygienists. Also, the increasing social consciousness concerning oral hygiene is good news for the hygienist.

Dental Assistant: Dental assistant tasks range from attending the front desk to assisting the dentist in treatment. Employment outlook is good to excellent, especially for graduates of academic programs for dental assistants. Turnover plays a major role in creating a positive job outlook. Opportunities are not only good in urban centers, but also in the rural portions of the state through various Public Health programs.

Medical Occupations

Medical Doctors: Doctors work in private practice, in public health programs and for the military. The employment outlook is favorable although the shortage of physicians, except for rural areas, is a thing of the past. The opportunities vary geographically within the state with the larger urban areas being more competitive than the smaller urban areas and rural regions. Some areas are unable to support a full time position. There is, however, a shortage of physicians specializing in obstetrics and to a lesser degree pediatrics.

Opportunities arise because of increasing population and replacement needs. However, in Alaska, replacement needs, particularly due to retirement, are low. Retirement in the lower 48 is a large factor in creating job opportunities, but in Alaska retirement is extremely low because the average age of physicians is very young. Nationally, medical school enrollment has increased in recent years causing increased competition among doctors. This in combination with sky rocketing cost of equiping a modern medical office have encouraged doctors, at an increasing rate, to turn to group practices. As one doctor stated, "the solo practice has priced itself out of the market."

Nurse Practitioner: The nurse practitioner is an R.N. who with additional training allows them to act more independently. Many work in doctors offices, their own office, clinics and in rural areas. This occupation is relatively new and has come about largely in response to a shortage of doctors in the 60's and 70's especially in rural areas of the state. Occupational opportunities are fairly good though only a small number of jobs exist in the state. Although the outlook is good it will depend to a large extent upon the use of nurse practitioners by doctors to streamline their offices. The expected oversupply of doctors in the future may limit the opportunities. Another factor for growth is the extent they will be used in the rural areas of the state.

Physician Assistant: The physician assistant (P.A.) came into being in the 1960's, when doctors were in short supply. The idea was to use a number of Medical Corpsmen, trained in the Vietnam conflict, to help solve the medical services shortage. Additional training enables these medics and other medically trained people to become P.A.'s. The demand/supply situation is balanced but the increased use by physicians and their use in rural areas could brighten the outlook. On the other hand the increased number of doctors could lead to lower patient loads for physicians thus lessening the demand for P.A.'s. Sparsely populated areas will always have trouble attracting full-time physicians and the P.A. services in those areas will remain an important contribution to health care.

Paramedic: The job outlook is very competitive for paramedics because of the large number of people that find it an attractive occupation and the

relatively small number of jobs. The person with paramedic training will have an advantage over a nonparamedic in some job openings, particularly at remote sites.

Medical Assistant: Medical assistants work for physicians in capacities ranging from reception to preparing medical records and performing some examinations. In many offices they are the "Jack-of-all-trades". Job outlook is good for both part time and full time positions. Job openings occur due to turnover, which is fairly high, and the arrival of new doctors to the state. Some physicians will provide training while others like some type of experience such as nursing or graduation from a formal medical assistant program.

Health Aide: The health aide is a unique occupation to Alaska's health care. The health care aide must be a local person of a predominately native village who is chosen by the community. The aide performs examinations, treats emergencies, dispenses medication, and handles a number of other health care needs of the local residents. Formal training is provided and physician supervision is available via radio. Job opportunities across the state are good to excellent. Turnover is high due to a very heavy work load and being on call 24 hours a day.

Medical Social Worker: Social workers are community and individual trouble shooters. Through direct counseling or referral to other services they help individuals, families, and groups cope with personal problems. Some may specialize in medical health or alcohol and drug abuse. Job outlook varies depending on the geographic region of the state. A shortage exists in some rural areas and is balanced to oversupply in the urban communities. The outlook is competitive in Anchorage as there are more job openings in Anchorage because of the size of the communitiy. The outlook depends on the amount of financial aid from governmental units. One way to gain entry is to volunteer with an agency or take a clerical position while waiting for social work positions to become available.

Optometrist: Optometrists examine eyes and prescribe corrective lenses or treatment to protect and improve vision. The demand/supply situation is balanced edging towards oversupply in Alaska, particularly in Anchorage. A recent influx of optometrists to the state has caused this fairly competitive situation. Nationally, the outlook is fair with the expected number of graduates from the nation's 16 schools of optometry to be roughly equal to the number of positions that arise from growth in demand for vision care and replacement needs due to turnover and retirement.

Optician: Opticians fit and adjust eyeglasses and/or contact lenses according to prescription written by an Optometrist or Ophthalmologist. They do not examine eyes or prescribe treatment. The job outlook is competitive with a slight oversupply of opticians, particularly in Anchorage. Prospects for growth are tied to local population growth in various

areas of the state. Training and knowledge of the latest technologies is important to establish a successful practice. Also to be competitive an optician should be certified in eye glasses and contact lenses. Nationally, the long term outlook is good due to a growing and aging population. Older persons require more vision care. Also increased public awareness of good eyesight combined with increased coverage of services under insurance programs will increase demand for opticians.

Chiropractor: Chiropractic is a system of treatment based on the manual manipulation of parts of the body, especially the spinal column. A recent influx of chiropractors into the state in the last three years has caused a balanced to oversupply situation, particularly in Anchorage. Demand for chiropractors is related closely to public acceptance of the profession which has increased over the years. Enrollments in chiroprator colleges have grown dramatically in recent years which is likely to cause more competition. Because of increased competition the clinic setting and group practices are on the rise.

Training and Educational Opportunities

Education and training needs vary from occupation to occupation, but most health care jobs require formal education ranging from several months to a decade. Many jobs require a degree or certificate from an accredited school. In Alaska, education and training opportunities are provided through the University of Alaska system including the campuses in Fairbanks and Anchorage, its 11 community colleges throughout Alaska, correspondence courses and Rural Education Centers. Although education opportunities may not be available in your local area or in state, credits completed through local programs may be transferred to other Alaskan schools or to outside colleges and universities which provide the appropriate education and training.

Qualified Alaska residents may take advantage of various financial aid and other assistance programs. The WICHE Exchange Program (Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education) helps Alaska residents obtain access to professional education not available in the state. Participants pay a reduced out of state tuition. The state reimburses the participating institution where the WICHE student enrolls for the nonresident portion of the tuition, plus a portion of the institution's operating cost. The student does not receive any direct payment. For more information, contact the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, Pouch FP, Juneau, Alaska 99811.

The Alaska Native Health Care Program through the University of Alaska Rural Education Centers provides short term traineeship programs for minority high school and college students pursuing a career in medicine. For more information contact the Office of Personnel Management with the federal government or the local Public Health Service facility.

COSTEP (Commissioned Officer Student Training and Exchange Program) provides the qualified college nurse and physician student subsidized education in exchange for service with the Corps of Public Health Service as commissioned officers. For more information contact the Office of Personnel Management with the federal government or the local Public Health Service facility. The military also provides some training opportunities for various technical fields. Nurses, doctors and other professionals must have credentials before enlistment. For more information contact your local armed forces recruiter.

Dentist: To become a dentist, three years of college, and in most cases an undergraduate degree, is a prerequisite. Some emphasis should have been placed on the sciences in the undergraduate course of study. It is important to perform well on the undergraduate level as entry into a dentistry school can be very competitive. Dental school will typically last 4 years. The closest program to Alaska is at the University of Washington.

Dental Assistant: The Anchorage Community College has a 2 semester program and 6 weeks of practicum to become a certified dental assistant. One semester of prerequiste work is also necessary, which can be fulfilled elsewhere. An Associate degree is also available.

Dental Hygienist: The Anchorage Community College offers an Associate degree in dental hygiene. Some of the precourse work may be taken on campuses elsewhere in the state. The total program, including 1 year of prerequisite classes, lasts approximately three years.

Medical Doctor: In almost all cases four years of undergraduate school is necessary before entering medical school. Regardless of what a persons undergraduate degree is, it is imperative to achieve very high academic standings. One year of biology and physics, and one and one half years of chemistry is often a prerequisite. This training can be obtained at any of the University of Alaska four-year campuses. Alaska does have a medical school program known as the WAMI program (Washington, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho). The state of Alaska buys ten medical school positions at the University of Washington Medical School for state residents. If accepted into this program, the student spends his first year of medical school at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and the remaining three years at the University of Washington. The student's clinical work can be performed in Anchorage and Ketchikan during the last 2 years of medical school. Once medical school is completed, three more years of residency is typically necessary to become a practicing doctor. The WAMI program is highly competitive. In this year's program there were 57 applicants for 10 positions. A person can, of course, apply to any of the other medical schools throughout the country.

Nurse Practitioner: A person must first be a registered nurse (see December *Alaska Economic Trends*). A Master level nurse practitioner program is

ALASKA
HOURS AND EARNINGS
FOR
SELECTED INDUSTRIES 1 2

	Average Hourly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Weekly Earnings		
	p/ 11 83	r/ 10 83	11 82	p/ 11/83	r 10 83	11 82	p 11 83	r 10 83	11 82
Mining	$24.45	$23.21	$24.49	49.2	50.4	50.6	$1202.94	$1169.78	$1239.19
Contract Construction 3	28.54	25.03	23.77	39.3	40.9	36.5	925.12	1023.73	867.61
Manufacturing	15.01	15.13	14.83	28.8	30.9	30.7	432.29	467.52	455.28
Food & Kindred Products	9.14	8.73	8.83	16.8	20.3	17.8	153.55	177.22	157.17
Lumber & Paper Products	18.01	18.53	16.66	39.3	40.2	38.8	707.79	744.91	646.41
Trans. Comm. & Utilities	15.76	16.41	15.09	37.3	37.1	38.2	587.85	609.92	576.14
Trade	10.26	10.17	9.67	34.5	35.7	34.4	353.97	363.07	332.65
Wholesale	12.20	12.15	11.10	36.8	39.1	37.1	448.96	478.71	415.11
Retail	9.50	9.33	9.10	33.7	34.3	33.3	320.15	320.02	303.03
Fin -Ins. & Real Estate	—	—	—	—	—	—	339.79	348.13	371.98

1 Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor

2 Excludes eating and drinking establishments

3 Due to technical revision in construction sample, 1982 estimates are not strictly comparable to previous years data.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS SERIES: Averages are based on data for full and part time production workers (manufacturing) and nonsupervisory workers (nonmanufacturing) and are for gross earnings and hours paid, including overtime pay and hours.

available at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. This program requires a person to have a Bachelor's degree in nursing before being accepted. There are programs elsewhere in the country which will accept RN's without a Bachelor's degree. These type of programs are being phased out, and the Master route is becoming more popular.

Physicians Assistant: Two years of college training, and/or 2 years of health related experience is usually a prerequisite before being admitted into a formal physicians' assistant program. A Bachelor's degree is sometimes necessary and is becoming necessary in more programs. The programs vary from one to four years. The more health experience and college the better because the competition to enter these programs is keen.

Paramedic: A person must first be a certified Emergency Medical Technician to qualify as a paramedic candidate. This requires that a person completes the 81 hour program designed by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Training is available through health departments, volunteer fire departments, emergency medical clinics, and other volunteer groups. To qualify to become a paramedic, a person must attend a paramedic school outside of the State. This program typically lasts from six months to a year. The closest program is at the University of Oregon, Portland.

Health Aide: Health aides are in a unique position as they are chosen for the jobs before they are trained. The overall basic training period can take up to 18 months with a mix of practical and formal training provided; most of it taking place in the village. Training is, however, continuous throughout an aide's career.

Medical Assistant: Medical assistants obtain formal training at programs which last from 6 months to a 2 year Associate degree. Some medical offices will provide on-the-job training. The Anchorage Community College has a 2 year Associate degree program.

Medical Social Worker: Training for a medical social worker is varied. This is particularly true for social workers in the mental health fields. There are social workers with no formal training and there are many with Masters degrees. On the physical health side, a Bachelor and Master degree is usually necessary, but in mental health social work there is a real variety of requirements. There is a similar program for social aides as there is for health aides. There are Associate, Bachelor, and Master degree programs in Alaska. ACC and TVCC have Associate degree programs in social work and related fields. The University of Alaska Anchorage has the only accredited Bachelor of Social Work program. The University of Alaska Fairbanks does have a BA degree in Sociology, with an emphasis in social work, and hopes to have an accredited program within the year. Fairbanks also has a Master level program in community counseling.

For a person who wishes to pursue social work as a career, it is recommended to attend a Bachelor or Master level program. Without these credentials, a very large percentage of the job opportunities in this field will be beyond a persons reach.

Optometrist: A college degree, with an emphasis in the sciences, is almost always a prerequisite before attending an optometry school. The University of Alaska, Fairbanks has a three year preoptometry course of study. In rare cases a person can attend optometry school after two years of college. Competition is stiff to enter optometry school and its duration is four years. There is no optometry school in Alaska. The closest school is the University of California at Berkeley.

Optician: Alaska has a 3 year apprenticeship program under a certified optician. One can attend an optician school for an Associate degree (2 years) and work under an optician for a year to be certified. The Associate degree route is recommended because a graduate of one of these programs will have a variety of skills.

Chiropractor: A person typically needs a minimum of two years of college work, with an emphasis in the sciences, before attending a four year chiropractic college. The prechiropractic course work can be taken on many of Alaska's college campuses. There is no chiropractic college in Alaska. The closest college is located in Portland, Oregon.

As the health care field continues to expand, new occupations and nontraditional occupations will continue to grow. The changes mean increased and improved care for the both the rural and urban areas. For additional information about medical and other occupations contact the Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis.

ALASKA

By Ed Eboch

With the holiday season behind and the impact of winter weather affecting many activities statewide, nonagricultural employment continued its normal seasonal decline in January. All areas of employment dropped with the exception of mining. Typically, the oil industry increases employment after year end. Total employment declined to 198,504, a drop of 3.6% from December, but still well above January 1983. After a record year, construction employment continued to adjust to more normal levels, dropping 13.8% December to January. Manufacturing also dropped significantly as seafood processing and troubled forest products firms reduced employment in these industries. Not uncommon, when record levels of employment are reached unemployment also rises, especially as seasonal layoffs occur. The unemployment rate for January reached an all time high of 13.3%.

Forestry

The continuing world recession, which started in 1981, and high interest rates have created a number of problems for the forest product industry. The recession in the U.S. reduced U.S. demand for wood products. This resulted in an oversupply situation which forced down U.S. prices. At the same time, reduced demand from foreign markets, especially Japan, and unfavorable exchange rates priced Alaska wood products out of the Far East market. As prices and sales were declining, costs continued to escalate. U.S. Forest Service fees, regulatory and environmental constraints, and wage increases all contributed to higher costs of harvesting and processing Alaska timber. The result is Alaska wood products that are uncompetitive on world markets with Canadian wood products.

This loss of employment in the timber industry is important beyond just those directly employed. Unlike the other seasonal base industries, the wood products industry is more successful in creating secondary and tertiary jobs. For every job lost in forestry, 2 to 3 jobs are eventually lost in other sectors of the Alaska economy.

Alaska Timber Industry
Average Annual Employment

	1983*	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978
Logging	1046	1176	1129	1354	1221	1021
Sawmills	454	642	764	930	766	631
Other Wood Products	253	244	286	185	151	158
Pulp & Paper	751	820	985	1044	1012	1051
Total Lumber & Pulp	2504	2832	3164	3513	3150	2861

* Based on six months actual data and six months sample based estimates.

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
BY PLACE OF WORK
ALASKA

	P/	R/	CHANGES FROM:		
	1/84	12/83	1/83	12/83	1/83
Nonag. Wage & Salary	198700	206200	189400	-7500	9300
Mining	8200	7700	8100	500	100
Construction	14800	17200	13700	-2400	1100
Manufacturing	6600	7800	7000	-1200	-400
Food & Kindred Prod.	2300	3000	2600	-700	-300
Lumber & Paper Prod.	1600	2000	1700	-400	-100
All Other Mfg.	2700	2800	2700	-100	0
Trans. Comm. & Util.	17300	17700	17000	-400	300
Trucking & Whseing.	2100	2000	2100	100	0
Water Transportation	1200	1400	1000	-200	200
Air Transportation	5400	5500	5100	-100	300
Other Trans. Comm. & Utilities	8600	8800	8800	-200	-200
Trade	42100	44400	37500	-2300	4600
Wholesale	8000	8100	7400	-100	600
Retail	34100	36300	30100	-2200	4000
General Merchandise & Apparel	5000	5600	4500	-600	500
Food Stores	5800	6100	4900	-300	900
Eating & Drinking Places	11200	11900	10300	-700	900
Other Retail Trade	12100	12700	10400	-600	1700
Finance-Ins. & R. Estate	10600	10900	9800	-300	800
Services & Misc.	37200	37700	36200	-500	1000
Government	61900	62800	60100	-900	1800
Federal	17400	17800	17300	-400	100
State	18200	18700	18300	-500	-100
Local	26300	26300	24500	0	1800

Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark Date March 1983.

P/ Denotes premilinary estimates.

R/ Denotes revised estimates.

With the U.S. economy recovering, housing starts are up and demand for wood products has increased. As the U.S. economy continues to improve, Canadian products will be diverted from the world market to the U.S. markets. With world economic conditions improving prospects for the Alaska lumber products industry should also improve.

Annual Revision of Nonagricultural Employment Estimates

Each January, nonagricultural employment estimates are revised for the preceeding year by a procedure referred to as "benchmarking". The revised employment estimates for 1983 have just been completed. The monthly estimates of employment published in *Alaska Economic Trends* are based on a sample of employers. The most comprehensive count of employment is based on unemployment insurance tax reports, commonly referred to as 202 data. There is a six to nine month lag in collection and publication of this information. As a result, monthly employment is estimated from a sample of firms willing to participate in the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. The willingness of firms to provide these data make possible reliable estimates of nonagricultural employment on a timely basis. We would like to extend our appreciation to those firms that participate in the CES program.

The revised employment estimates for 1983 have just been completed and incorporate 202 data through June 1983. Information covering these revisions are available from the Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section. The revised numbers indicate that employment growth in 1983 was slightly above those of our earlier estimates. Statewide 1983 average nonagricultural employment was revised to 212,900 for a 6.2% increase over 1982. There was a tendency to slightly underestimate most categories. Two industries require additional attention. In the revised numbers, construction is estimated to be up 20.8% to an average of 20,300. This exceeds even, what seemed at the time, our earlier extremely optimistic estimates. At the same time, food and kindred products (seafood processing) appear to have been overestimated and that for the year a decline of 1.4% from 1982 was experienced.

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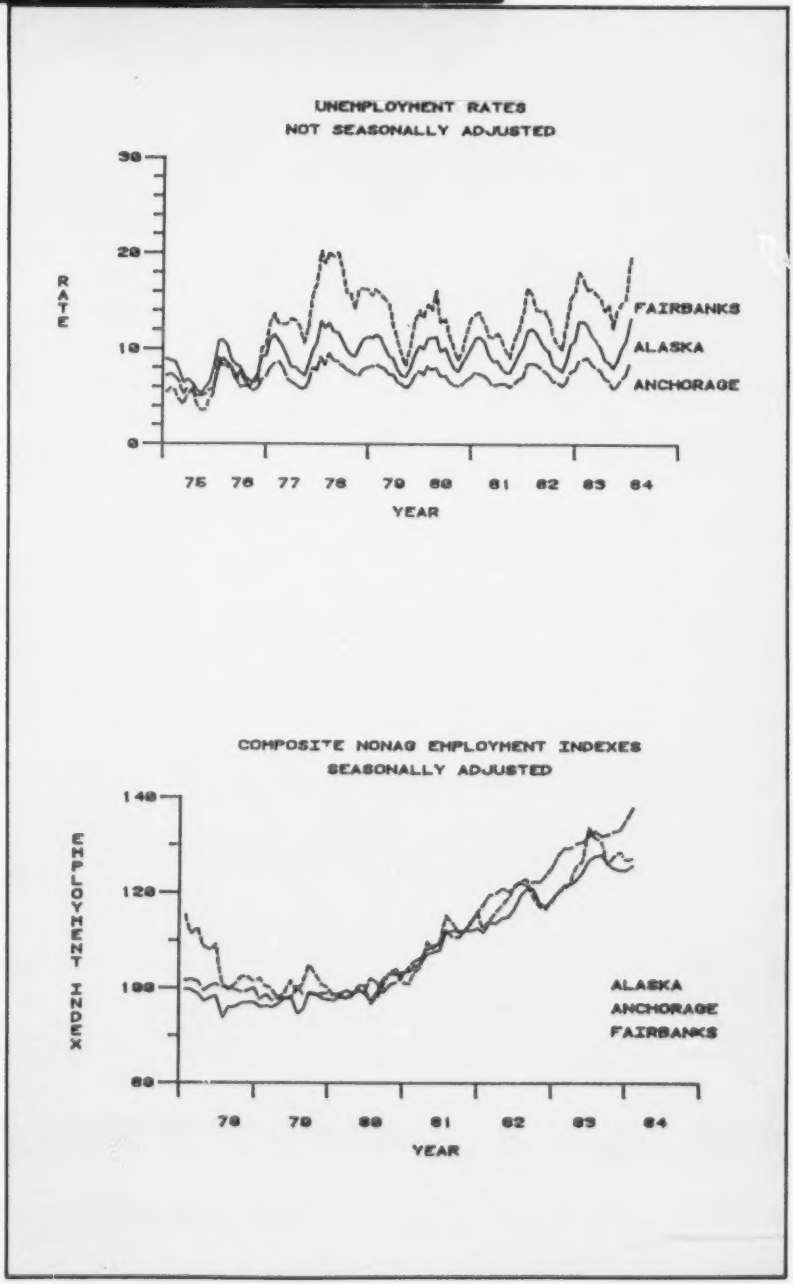

ANCHORAGE-MATSU

By Greg Huff

Anchorage nonagricultural wage and salary employment continued its seasonal slide in January dropping by 2,500 jobs from December employment levels. While this is a significant decline, employment levels this January are up 7.8% over January 1983 levels. The month to month decline in employment was broadly based, including all industries except mining, food and kindred products, wholesale trade, and local government. The principle sources of the over-the-month fall in employment were seasonal declines in construction activity and the end of the holiday buying season. Employment increases in mining are normal for January because the oil and gas industry expands exploration efforts during the "freeze-up" months.

The growth in employment from January 1983 was widespread. State government, more precisely state education, was the only sector which showed employment below year-ago levels. The decline was a temporary aberration. Anchorage Community College's second semester started near the end of January this year vs the beginning of January last year. Hundreds of temporary part-time instructors who were off for the semester break were not included in our figures. The February numbers will pick those up and state education is expected to show a monthly increase and over-the-year gains. In 1983, state government employment in Anchorage grew 7.7%.

The growth rate in construction employment has lost some momentum in the Anchorage area. Construction employment in January 1984 was up only 8.6% compared to January 1983. This contrasts to gains of 44% and 36% in 1983 and 1982, respectively. In line with the diminished construction employment growth, housing permits for the past 5 months (Sept. 1983-Jan. 1984) have been below corresponding figures from the previous year. The Municipality of Anchorage's construction activity report, dated Jan. 1984, reenforced the trend showing a $17 million (or 55%) decline in construction project valuations. The decline is widespread, including all housing categories from single family through multi-family and commercial projects.

LABOR FORCE BY REGION AND CENSUS DIVISION

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	P 1-84	R 12-83	1-83	P 1-84	R 12-83	1-83	P 1-84	R 12-83	1-83	P 1-84	R 12-83	1-83
Alaska Statewide	219404	224121	207983	29085	24497	26797	13.3	10.9	12.9	190319	199624	181186
Anchorage-Matsu Region	115420	118166	108088	11368	9982	10460	9.8	8.4	9.7	104052	108184	97628
Anchorage	103563	106057	97087	9154	7899	8506	8.8	7.4	8.8	94409	98158	88581
Matanuska-Susitna	11857	12109	11001	2214	2083	1954	18.7	17.2	17.8	9643	10026	9047
Gulf Coast Region	23435	23922	22541	4269	3387	4429	18.2	14.2	19.6	19166	20535	18112
Cordova	1229	1255	1150	203	156	180	16.5	12.4	15.7	1026	1099	970
Kenai	12223	12479	11793	2457	2016	2565	20.1	16.2	21.8	9766	10463	9228
Kodiak	5070	5215	4949	694	526	813	13.7	10.1	16.4	4376	4689	4136
Seward	1723	1733	1693	356	269	401	20.7	15.5	23.7	1367	1464	1292
Valdez	3190	3240	2956	559	420	470	17.5	13.0	15.9	2631	2820	2486
Interior Region	29709	29802	28017	5768	4521	4991	19.4	15.2	17.8	23941	25281	23026
Fairbanks	24288	24331	22908	4774	3725	4140	19.7	15.3	18.1	19514	20606	18768
Southeast Fairbanks	2342	2369	2162	385	302	279	16.4	12.7	12.9	1957	2067	1883
Upper Yukon	726	743	684	142	127	123	19.6	17.1	18.0	584	616	561
Yukon-Koyukuk	2353	2359	2263	467	367	449	19.8	15.6	19.8	1886	1992	1814
Northern Region	10500	10662	10334	1081	1109	926	10.3	10.4	9.0	9419	9553	9408
Barrow-North Slope	2830	2847	2731	289	270	193	10.2	9.5	7.1	2541	2577	2538
Kobuk	3271	3299	3213	348	334	293	10.6	10.1	9.1	2923	2965	2920
Nome	4399	4516	4390	444	505	440	10.1	11.2	10.0	3955	4011	3950
Southeast Region	29996	30938	29028	5335	4430	4947	17.8	14.3	17.0	24661	26508	24081
Angoon	375	398	399	49	47	80	13.1	11.8	20.1	326	351	319
Haines	1049	1087	1026	217	193	211	20.7	17.8	20.9	832	894	812
Juneau	10338	10809	9797	1386	1186	1056	13.4	11.0	10.8	8952	9623	8741
Ketchikan	6385	6515	6217	1197	939	1151	18.7	14.4	18.5	5188	5576	5066
Outer Ketchikan	795	789	873	184	132	276	23.1	16.7	31.6	611	657	597
Prince of Wales	1448	1544	1484	307	317	370	21.2	20.5	24.9	1141	1227	1114
Sitka	4184	4397	4017	567	510	485	13.6	11.6	12.1	3617	3887	3532
Skagway	1722	1727	1648	516	431	470	30.0	25.0	28.5	1206	1296	1178
Wrangell-Petersburg	3700	3672	3567	912	675	845	24.6	18.4	23.7	2788	2997	2722
Southwest Region	10344	10631	9975	1264	1068	1044	12.2	10.0	10.5	9080	9563	8931
Aleutian Islands	2627	2757	2587	158	156	158	6.0	5.7	6.1	2469	2601	2429
Bethel	3320	3402	3186	431	360	345	13.0	10.6	10.8	2889	3042	2841
Bristol Bay Borough	369	375	366	43	32	45	11.7	8.5	12.3	326	343	321
Bristol Bay	1399	1445	1318	180	161	119	12.9	11.1	9.0	1219	1284	1199
Kuskokwim	976	971	903	188	142	128	19.3	14.6	14.2	788	829	775
Wade Hampton	1653	1681	1615	264	217	249	16.0	12.9	15.4	1389	1464	1366

P =Preliminary 1983 Benchmark

R =Revised

Federal guidelines require the use of unrounded labor data, adjusted to be consistent with the Current Population Survey (CPS) in formulas used to allocate federal funds. Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series published by the Alaska Department of Labor; because Alaska's CPS sample size is inadequate to accurately indicate monthly changes in level. The sampling errors are random in nature; meaning that the unemployment rates, in any given month, are as likely to be high as frequently as they are low. The official definitions of unemployment, currently in place, exclude anyone who has made no attempt to find work in the four week period up to and including the week that includes the twelfth of each month. Most economists feel that Alaska's bush localities have proportionately more of these discouraged workers.

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
BY PLACE OF WORK
ANCHORAGE

			CHANGES FROM:		
	P/ 1/84	R/ 12/83	1/83	12/83	1/83
Nonag. Wage & Salary	102800	105300	95350	-2500	7450
Mining	3650	3350	3400	300	250
Construction	7550	8550	6950	-1000	600
Manufacturing	2150	2150	2050	0	100
Food & Kindred Prod.	350	300	350	50	0
All Other Mfg.	1800	1850	1700	-50	100
Trans. Comm. & Util.	8400	8850	8050	-450	350
Trucking & Whseing.	1250	1350	1150	-100	100
Water Transportation	250	350	250	-100	0
Air Transportation	3400	3600	3200	-200	200
Other Trans. Comm. & Utilities	3500	3550	3450	-50	50
Trade	26350	27000	23350	-650	3000
Wholesale	6100	6050	5650	50	450
Retail	20250	20950	17700	-700	2550
General Merchandise	1850	2000	1650	-150	200
Food Stores	2500	2650	2300	-150	200
Eating & Drinking Places	7550	7750	6650	-200	900
Other Retail Trade	8350	8550	7100	-200	1250
Finance-Ins. & R. Estate	7000	7150	6700	-150	300
Services & Misc.	22700	23000	21350	-300	1350
Government	25000	25250	23500	-250	1500
Federal	9950	9950	9850	0	100
State	6100	6450	6450	-350	-350
Local	8950	8850	7200	100	1750

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
BY PLACE OF WORK
ANCHORAGE-MATSU

			CHANGES FROM:		
	P/ 1/84	R/ 12/83	1/83	12/83	1/83
Nonag. Wage & Salary	107550	110600	99700	-3050	7850
Mining	3650	3350	3450	300	200
Construction	7900	9150	7350	-1250	550
Manufacturing	2250	2250	2100	0	150
Trans. Comm. & Util.	8950	9300	8500	-350	450
Trade	27400	28150	24300	-750	3100
Finance-Ins. & R. Estate	7300	7500	6850	-200	450
Services & Misc.	23350	23900	22050	-550	1300
Government	26750	27000	25100	-250	1650

FAIRBANKS/INTERIOR

By Neal Fried

Employment Outlook

Employment will move ahead in Fairbanks in 1984, the fourth year in a row of growth. The growth rate will continue to slow, having peaked in 1981 at an annual average of 9%, but a number of industries will chalk up gains again this year. This is not to say that 1984 will be a repeat of the previous years' trends as subtle and possibly not so subtle changes will occur. The major source of stimulus remains the state oil revenues which have flowed steadily during the past 4 years, and are expected to continue in 1984. The private sector has reacted to this stimulus and will continue to do so in 1984.

Labor Force

It is unlikely there will be any surprises in the labor force figures in 1984. During the past 2 years the unemployment rate has been in the 10.7-18.1% range, in spite of the fact that employment grew by more than 7% both years. High rates have persisted because of in-migration and the large number of seasonally employed workers, particularly construction workers. In-migration may abate somewhat with the rapid economic recovery presently taking place nationally. Seasonality will remain a major factor, and a slower rate of employment growth will keep unemployment rates high in 1984. The unemployment rate for 1984 is not likely to diverge far from the past two years' rates.

The job market will remain competitive but fluid. New and ongoing activities are expected to provide new opportunities. The supply of job seekers will keep the labor market competitive. If construction slows as expected it will become a tighter market for workers in this industry, although growth in many of the remaining industries will provide additional job opportunities.

Industry Profile

The construction industry is by no means Fairbanks' largest industry, but does represent approximately 10% of Fairbanks' wage and salary employment. It is a very unpredictable and volatile industry, and to an extent, acts as a weather vane for the rest of the economy in Fairbanks. During the 1983 legislative session approximately $120 million was appropriated for capital projects. While some of these funds have already been spent, much will be spent this year. This was more than double 1982's appropriations and insures that the public construction sector will experience another good year in 1984. A partial list of the larger projects includes renovation of the Hering Auditorium, $3 million pipe replacement, millions of dollars

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
BY PLACE OF WORK
FAIRBANKS

	P/ 1/84	R/ 12/83	1/83	CHANGES FROM: 12/83	1/83
Nonag. Wage & Salary	24750	25900	23350	-1150	1400
Mining	200	200	200	0	0
Construction	1750	2000	1550	-250	200
Manufacturing	450	450	400	0	50
Trans. Comm. & Util.	2550	2650	2700	-100	-150
Trucking & Whseing.	400	450	400	-50	0
Air Transportation	600	600	600	0	0
Other Trans. Comm. & Utilities	1550	1600	1700	-50	-150
Trade	5300	5700	4650	-400	650
Wholesale	850	900	850	-50	0
Retail	4450	4800	3800	-350	650
General Merchandise & Apparel	450	500	350	-50	100
Food Stores	750	750	700	0	50
Other Retail Trade	3250	3550	2750	-300	500
Finance-Ins. & R. Estate	950	1000	900	-50	50
Services & Misc.	4850	4900	4600	-50	250
Government	8700	9000	8350	-300	350
Federal	2500	2550	2500	-50	0
State	3600	3800	3600	-200	0
Local	2600	2650	2250	-50	350

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
BY PLACE OF WORK
INTERIOR

	P/ 1/84	R/ 12/83	1/83	CHANGES FROM: 12/83	1/83
Nonag. Wage & Salary	28050	29350	26600	-1300	1450
Mining	300	350	300	-50	0
Construction	1850	2050	1600	-200	250
Manufacturing	500	500	450	0	50
Trans. Comm. & Util.	3250	3350	3350	-100	-100
Trade	5600	6050	4950	-450	650
Finance-Ins. & R. Estate	1000	1050	950	-50	50
Services & Misc.	5100	5300	4850	-200	250
Government	10450	10700	10150	-250	300

in road construction, continued work on the hospital, completion of the University of Alaska's dormitories, classroom space, library, and the North Pole High School. The Corps of Engineers is also planning a busy season, spending $60 million on a variety of larger and smaller projects.

In the private sector the largest project on the horizon is the $60 million expansion of the MAPCO refinery. The refinery plans to boost existing capacity and add on two new lines of products, gasoline and asphalt. If this project goes as planned it will not only be the single largest construction project but will also boost manufacturing employment and Fairbanks' export sector. Other large building projects will include the addition of 6 floors to the old Borough building and the completion of another major office building. Given what is presently known, it appears private commercial construction should remain strong.

The residential sector is the big question mark in 1984. All information indicates that the residential construction sector will be slowing down. Rental vacancies are up and there is presently a healthy inventory of housing on the market. Single family home construction peaked in 1981, but multi-family housing construction grew enough to increase the number of housing units in 1983. With plans to bring on an additional 213 units in 1984-1985, the multi-family sector will remain strong. Construction of single family units will likely continue to come down, causing employment in the residential sector to fall, and thus causing some slow down in the entire industry. This outcome could be different if special housing for Eielson AFB are approved.

North Slope construction activity, another source of economic growth for the Fairbanks economy in the past, will not be providing this stimulus in 1984. Both major oil companies on the North Slope are predicting a significantly slower construction year in 1984.

Trade and services, Fairbanks' major secondary industries, will make gains again in 1984, trade in particiular. Population and income growth will push these industries ahead. A good tourism year is expected, both because of promotions and the end of the national recession. This will provide stimuli to Fairbanks' secondary sector. Government, Fairbanks' largest sector, will also grow. Federal employment is projected to remain level, but it could inch upward due to activity on the military bases. State government may move ahead slightly, responding to the University of Alaska's ever growing enrollments. Local government will grow because Fairbanks' school population is up, new schools have been built and additional services will have to be provided to the growing population.

GULF COAST

By Neal Fried

Employment Outlook 1984

Growth in the Gulf Coast region, as in much of the state, has been riding on the wave of state expenditures for the past 3 years. More recently private commercial expenditures have also contributed to this growth. Though the wave has probably crested, the region will continue to benefit from state expenditures in 1984. While employment is expected to continue to grow in 1984, the region is not one economic unit and therefore the experiences of the communities will be different. The major communities in the region are Homer, Seward, Kenai, Soldotna, Kodiak, and Valdez. Some may not grow, others may possibly lose employment, but those which do forge ahead will more than make up for these losses.

Labor Force

The region's labor market has never suffered from a labor supply shortfall. Competition for jobs has always been keen, even during the past 3 years of high employment growth. The average annual unemployment rate dropped a percentage point in 1983, but remains at the high rate of 13.2% (3 points above the state's annual average). Unemployment has remained high, despite rapid growth in employment, due to the region's accessability to the major population center combined with the desire of many people to live there because of the lifestyle it offers. Though employment in 1984 will grow, the unemployment rate is not likely to change much since the supply of job seekers will also continue to grow. These new jobs will allow some new job seekers to find work and others to switch employment.

Industry Profile

Overall, it appears that construction could begin to slow in 1984. Public construction, which initially pushed this industry into the growth mode, appears to be slowing. The capital budget for the region in the 1983 legislature dropped below 1981 and 1982 levels. Most of the region's local communities plan to limit spending to year-ago levels or less, with only a few exceptions. There are many unknowns, as many projects are pending legislative funding.

Despite this slowdown in public construction, there are a number of large projects which will get underway in 1984 if all goes as scheduled. These projects include the new Homer High School, the expansion of Homer's small boat harbor, the completion of Seward's loading facility and Kodiak's Near Island bridge, and the construction of the Seward jail. The construction of the state jail in Seward will not only boost construction

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
BY PLACE OF WORK
GULF COAST

	P/ 1/84	R/ 12/83	1/83	CHANGES FROM: 12/83	1/83
Nonag. Wage & Salary	16950	17900	15750	-950	1200
Mining	750	700	700	50	50
Construction	1400	1600	1100	-200	300
Manufacturing	1550	1800	1650	-250	-100
Food & Kindred Prod.	900	1100	1000	-200	-100
All Other Mfg.	650	700	650	-50	0
Trans. Comm. & Util.	2200	2250	2000	-50	200
Trade	2900	3100	2600	-200	300
Wholesale	400	450	350	-50	50
Retail	2500	2650	2250	-150	250
Finance-Ins. & R. Estate	450	500	450	-50	0
Services & Misc.	2800	2850	2550	-50	250
Government	4900	5100	4700	-200	200
Federal	500	550	450	-50	50
State	1400	1500	1300	-100	100
Local	3000	3050	2950	-50	50

employment, but more importantly, when the jail staff is hired, Seward's wage and salary workforce will jump by 44%. Seward appears to be one of the exceptions for public capital projects this year in the Gulf Coast Region.

In the private commercial sector, one project will determine if this year's employment level is equal to or higher than 1983. This project is the $85 million Tesoro Refinery expansion which is pending an oil contract with the state. If the expansion does occur, it will not only boost construction employment, but when completed it would add more permanent manufacturing employment. Trade related construction will continue to expand in 1984 providing additional stimulus to the construction industry. Residential construction is the most difficult to predict. This past year saw residential construction grow by 51%. The Peninsula is expecting another good year in the residential sector but the balance of the region is expected to be lackluster.

Fishing, the region's largest private industry and most volatile, holds few promises for growth in 1984. The shell fishery's disappointing 1983 performance is expected to repeat itself in 1984. There are promising signs that the bottom fishing industry is developing in Kodiak, but it will not be enough this year to offset the contraction in the shellfish industry. The salmon fishery which is the major link to overall levels of fish processing employment, is expecting another good season in 1984. This will

hopefully keep fish processing employment near last year's level.

The region's secondary industries (service; trade; and finance, insurance and real estate) will continue to chalk up gains in 1984. Growth in population and income will keep these industries growing. A good tourism year is predicted, which will also benefit these industries. With the national recession fading, and a booming Anchorage economy, the number of visitors on the Kenai Peninsula should reach new heights.

Government, the region's largest sector, will also move ahead. Federal employment will likely remain unchanged, but state and local government will grow in response to growing population. New schools are being built and others are expanding, requiring additional staff.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA

By John Boucher

1983: The Year in Review

Nineteen eighty-three brought mixed results to Southeast Alaska employment. While the state benefited from another strong growth year (estimated at 6.2%) Southeast grew at a 2.3% rate. Closer examination reveals why the regions growth lagged behind other areas of the state. The strong growth in construction employment that led the 1983 surge was present in Southeast but a concurrent drop in manufacturing and transportation employment present in Southeast was not characteristic of the rest of the state. The downturn of these two industries restrained Southeast Alaska employment growth to a moderate pace.

Construction

Employment growth in Southeast was strongest in construction. In fact construction grew faster in Southeast Alaska in 1983 than in any other region of the state. Many factors contributed to the surge in construction activity during the last year. Public construction dollars played a large role with road projects, hospitals, marine facilities and public buildings all making significant contributions to employment growth. Another important factor in employment growth was the post-capital move building boom that began in Juneau in the winter of 1982 but didn't reach high gear until last summer. Juneau building activity contributed to employment increases in all three construction sectors. New housing units authorized were up 66% over 1982's record and new commercial construction was evident throughout the city. This activity boosted building and special trades construction while resurfacing much of the downtown areas streets bolstered the heavy construction sector.

Manufacturing

If construction employment growth was the zenith of the Southeast's employment then the decline in manufacturing employment was its nadir. Manufacturing, long the underpinning of Southeast Alaska's private employment structure, continued to have its prominence eroded by abyssmal markets. Lumber and pulp employment was the primary victim in 1983. Ketchikan's spruce mill was shut by strike in July and has not reopened. Alaska Lumber and Pulp has applied for relief from EPA water pollution standards claiming new equipment would be too costly to install, and the Wrangell sawmill announced at years end it was shutting down indefinitely in February 1984. Overall, it was a dismal year for Southeast manufacturing employment and prospects for a turnaround do not look promising.

Table I
Southeast Alaska Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment 1/
1982-1983

	1982	1983	Changes Number	Changes Percent
Total	28,192	28,850	658	2.3%
Construction	1,516	1,988	472	31.1%
Building Construction	415	538	123	29.6%
Heavy Construction	634	846	212	33.4%
Special Trades	467	605	138	29.6%
Manufacturing 2/	4,169	3,635	-534	-12.8%
Food & Kindred	1,540	1,370	-170	-11.0%
Lumber & Pulp	2,400	2,024	-376	-15.7%
Other	229	240	11	4.8%
Transportation, Comm. & Utilities	2,238	2,071	-167	-7.5%
Air Transportation	634	510	-124	-19.6%
Water Transportation	447	533	86	19.2%
Communication & Utilities	608	623	15	2.5%
Other Transportation	549	407	-142	-25.9%
Trade	4,154	4,534	380	9.1%
Wholesale	334	437	103	30.8%
Retail	3,820	4,097	277	7.3%
Food Stores	797	885	88	11.0%
Eating & Drinking	1,228	1,274	46	3.7%
Other	1,795	1,938	143	8.0%
Fin.-Insurance and Real Estate	976	969	-7	-0.7%
Mining, Services & Misc.	3,865	4,210	345	8.9%
Mining	30	55	25	83.3%
Hotel, Motel	592	746	154	26.0%
Medical	674	758	84	12.5%
Other	2,569	2,652	83	3.2%
Government	11,276	11,443	167	1.5%
Federal	2,216	2,228	12	0.5%
State	5,317	5,400	83	1.6%
Local	3,744	3,815	71	1.9%

Industry subtotals may not add due to annual average rounding.

1/ 1983 estimates on 6 months actual data and 6 months estimated data.

2/ Due to a recently discovered reporting error in 202 actual counts, the manufacturing and food and kindred products totals are unreliable for Southeast from 2nd quarter 1980 to the present. Food and kindred products is estimated to be overstated by almost 30% while manufacturing is overstated by about 10%. Revised data is anticipated to be available soon.

Table II
Southeast Alaska Unemployment
1983

Census Division	High (Month)	Low (Month)	Annual Avg.
Southeast Alaska	17.5 (Feb.)	8.1 (Aug.)	12.3
Angoon	21.0 (Feb.)	8.8 (Nov.)	14.8
Haines	22.8 (Feb.)	8.0 (Aug.)	15.3
Juneau	11.9 (Feb.)	7.8 (Aug.)	9.7
Ketchikan	18.5 (Jan.) (Jan./Feb.)	7.3 (Aug.)	12.1
Outer Ketchikan	32.2 (Feb.)	7.8 (Aug.)	19.4
Prince of Wales	26.0 (Feb.)	12.3 (Aug.)	18.1
Sitka	12.1 (Jan.)	7.3 (Aug.)	9.8
Skagway-Yakutat	30.5 (Feb.)	9.8 (June)	21.0
Wrangell-Petersburg	23.7 (Jan.)	7.0 (Aug.)	14.5

See footnote, center insert.

Transportation

Transportation employment was also a disappointment in the Southeast economy in 1983. The most important event was the shutdown of the White Pass-Yukon railroad in late 1982. The effect of this event was felt in the "other transportation" sector of the transportation industry. Air transportation also showed a net loss in employment from 1982 but the largest part of that drop is accounted for by one employer that was incorrectly coded into the region prior to 1983. The pullout of Wein Airlines did bring down the employment average slightly but not significantly since Western Airlines came on fairly early in the year. Water transportation had a very strong increase, and this could be related to the strong construction season.

Trade, Finance Insurance and Real Estate and Government

Trade had the best employment growth in the region except for construction. Wholesale trade growth was phenomenal, providing 28% of the total growth in trade during the year, about 3 to 4 times what would be expected. Hardware stores, furniture stores and other durables such as lumber figure prominently in wholesale trade and probably are a direct reflection of the growth in construction employment. Retail trade grew by 7.3%. Solid increases across the board indicate that Southeastern Alaska is expanding its retail employment to meet demands brought by increasing population and incomes. Finance, insurance and real estate employment remained essentially the same over the year. This might be considered a surprise given the increased construction activity. Real estate agents in the capital

city have had no lack of activity during the past year.

Mining, services and miscellaneous employment was also a strong contributor to Southeast employment growth during the past year. Mining activity almost doubled with the beginning of bulk sampling from Quartz Hill. Hotel and motel employment showed strong growth as three new hotels opened, one in Ketchikan and two in Juneau. Medical services grew 12.5% during the year and the all encompassing "other" category grew at a 3.2% rate.

State, federal and local government grew at a fairly slow pace during 1983. Federal goverment had a very slight increase over the year while state and local government increased 1.6% and 1.9% over the year.

Unemployment

Southeast Alaska annual average unemployment rose more than one full percentage point during 1983 to 12.3%. This was the worst "over the year" change of any region in the state outside of Alaska's interior. All of the regions census divisions experienced double digit unemployment. The Juneau census division average annual unemployment rate of 9.7% was the lowest in the Southeast while the Skagway census division had the regions and the states highest unemployment rate at 21.0%.

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
BY PLACE OF WORK
SOUTHEAST ALASKA

				CHANGES FROM:	
	P/ 1/84	R/ 12/83	1/83	12/83	1/83
Nonag. Wage & Salary	25650	27200	24800	-1550	850
Construction	1300	1600	1200	-300	100
Manufacturing	1800	2700	1900	-900	-100
Food & Kindred Prod.	350	850	350	-500	0
Lumber & Paper Prod.	1250	1600	1350	-350	-100
All Other Mfg.	200	250	200	-50	0
Trans. Comm. & Util.	1800	1950	1750	-150	50
Trade	4350	4650	4050	-300	300
Wholesale	400	400	400	0	0
Retail	3950	4250	3650	-300	300
Finance-Ins. & R. Estate	1000	1000	900	0	100
Mining, Services & Misc.	4000	3950	3850	50	150
Government	11400	11350	11150	50	250
Federal	2050	2150	2000	-100	50
State	5350	5100	5350	250	0
Local	4000	4100	3800	-100	200

HOURS AND EARNINGS

By Kathryn Lizik

Decreased levels of activity in many of Alaska's industries resulted in minor changes from November to December hours and earnings. Mining was the only industry to experience noticeable drops in all three categories: average hourly earnings fell 10% to $22.10; average weekly hours went from 49.2 to 46.7; and average weekly earnings fell 14% to $1,032.07. Construction continued to be seasonally slow with layoffs pushing the average weekly hours down 11% over November from 39.5 to 35.3. This in turn lowered average weekly earnings 10% to $843.32.

A slight increase in average weekly hours (5%) coupled with a comparable decrease in average hourly earnings (6%) was seen in the food and kindred products sector of manufacturing. A few scattered crab openings during December may have contributed to the light activity in seafood processing.

Retail trade did not reflect the excessively long working hours one would have expected prior to the busy Christmas shopping season. Although average hourly earnings dipped 2% and average weekly hours increased 2%, a combination usually indicative of new hires, the low average weekly hours of 37.7 was far below a 40-hour or better work week one would expect to see during the height of the buying season.